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Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community

Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominica, Finland, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Lebanon, Mexico, Nicaragua, Portugal, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Singapore, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago: draft resolution

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/8 of 16 October 1991, 49/141 of 20 December 1994, 51/16 of 11 November 1996, 53/17 of 29 October 1998, 55/17 of 7 November 2000, 57/41 of 21 November 2002, 59/138 of 10 December 2004, 61/50 of 4 December 2006, 63/34 of 26 November 2008 and 65/242 of 24 December 2010,

Bearing in mind the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations on the existence of regional arrangements or agencies for dealing with such matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security as are appropriate for regional action and other activities consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

Welcoming the continued commitment of the States members of the Caribbean Community to the United Nations as a principal forum for multilateral cooperation,

Recalling the signing on 27 May 1997 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community of a cooperation agreement between the secretariats of the two organizations,

Bearing in mind, in this regard, the cooperation activities undertaken by the United Nations and the Caribbean Community in fields related to the prevention and eradication of the illicit trade in narcotic drugs, small arms and light weapons, the safety and management of stockpiles and the destruction of surplus weapons and ammunition, the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the prohibition and restriction of the use of certain conventional weapons,

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Recalling the fruitful and action-oriented exchanges that have taken place recently between the two organizations, including contacts between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, and also between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community,

Bearing in mind that, in its resolutions 54/225 of 22 December 1999, 55/203 of 20 December 2000, 57/261 of 20 December 2002, 59/230 of 22 December 2004, 61/197 of 20 December 2006 and 63/214 of 19 December 2008, it recognized the importance of adopting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development, and mindful of the critical importance of the Caribbean Sea to the economic and social development and environmental well-being of the region, including in the areas of tourism, trade, commerce and the marine sector,

Bearing in mind also the support that Caribbean States have received from the United Nations in their efforts to advance the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[1]

Noting the support that the United Nations Environment Programme has been extending for the implementation of the environmental and sustainable development programmes of the Caribbean Community, including its close collaboration with the Sustainable Development Unit of the Caribbean Community Secretariat, and related national and regional institutions,

Expressing appreciation, in this context, for the technical role of the United Nations Environment Programme in building cooperation linkages among the small island developing States of the Caribbean Community, and in facilitating the assessment by them of the implications of their adaptation to climate change, which will guide future United Nations Environment Programme climate change programmes in the region,

Taking note of the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[2] in which Heads of State and Government recognized the unique and particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States and reaffirmed their commitment to urgent and concrete action to address those vulnerabilities through the full and effective implementation of the Mauritius Strategy, and taking note also of the outcome document of the High-level Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[3] held on 24 and 25 September 2010 in New York,

Noting that the Caribbean region is the second most hazard-prone region in the world, with frequent exposure to devastating natural hazards, including earthquakes, floods, hurricanes and volcanic eruptions, and concerned that their increased

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[1] See *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] See resolution 65/1.

[3] See resolution 65/2.

frequency, intensity and destructive power continue to pose a challenge to the development of the region,

Recalling the devastating earthquake that struck Haiti on 12 January 2010 as well as the subsequent passage of tropical storms and hurricanes which caused loss of life and widespread damage to agriculture, infrastructure and personal property, and stressing the urgent need for renewed and sustained attention to the critical situation in Haiti and to fulfil the pledges made to assist Haiti in its long-term recovery and sustainable development initiatives,

Noting that in 2010, 2011 and 2012 States members of the Caribbean Community, including the Bahamas, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, were severely affected, in varying degrees of intensity, by natural disasters which caused significant loss of life and extensive damage to infrastructure, with consequent negative effects on the development efforts of the countries affected,

Noting with appreciation the robust support and encouragement that the United Nations continues to give to the Pan-Caribbean Partnership against HIV/AIDS as it continues to perform its role as the regional response mechanism for reducing the spread and impact of HIV and AIDS through a system of universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support,

Noting with appreciation also the number of consultations and information exchanges that have been taking place between officials of the two organizations aimed at strengthening their bilateral cooperation in such areas as combating crime and armed violence, and drug abuse control,

Expressing deep concern about the persistent challenges posed by an international environment characterized by, inter alia, ongoing adverse impacts of the world financial and economic crisis, the lack of access to energy and sustainable modern energy services, food insecurity, the increased incidence of natural disasters and environmental challenges, all of which have increased the vulnerabilities and seriously exacerbated the challenges for the development efforts of the countries of the Caribbean Community,

Recalling the initiative of the States members of the Caribbean Community for the convening of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases on 19 and 20 September 2011,

Affirming the need to further strengthen the cooperation that already exists between entities of the United Nations system and the Caribbean Community in the areas of sustainable development, political and humanitarian affairs and security,

Convinced of the need for the coordinated utilization of available resources to promote the common objectives of the two organizations,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[4] in particular paragraphs 36 to 48 on the Caribbean Community, concerning efforts to strengthen and deepen cooperation;

2. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in association with the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community, as well as the relevant

[4] A/67/280.

regional organizations, to continue to assist in furthering the development and maintenance of peace and security within the Caribbean region;

3. *Notes* the recent engagements between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community to continue to promote and expand cooperation within their respective mandates so as to increase the capacity of the two organizations to attain their objectives and to seek answers to global challenges, including climate change, disaster relief and preparedness, socioeconomic challenges including poverty, and transnational organized crime;

5. *Calls upon* the United Nations and the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, bearing in mind the particular vulnerabilities of the States members of the Caribbean Community, to intensify their assistance to those States to enable them to address the diverse challenges that these vulnerabilities pose to achieving sustainable development;

6. *Welcomes* the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases,[5] adopted by consensus, and in particular the acknowledgement of non-communicable diseases as a development challenge and the commitment to coordinated, multi-sectoral approaches, development of national plans, prioritization of prevention by addressing common risk factors, development of voluntary targets, strengthening of national health systems, including the provision of universal coverage, and promotion of increased access to medicines;

7. *Stresses* the importance of greater international solidarity, cooperation and assistance in accelerating the implementation of multi-sectoral national plans and of giving due consideration to non-communicable diseases as a development priority in the elaboration of the post-2015 United Nations development agenda;

8. *Expresses appreciation* for the robust partnership arrangements between the Caribbean Community and the World Health Organization and Pan American Health Organization in addressing non-communicable diseases, and commends the valuable supportive role being played by the World Health Organization and Pan American Health Organization through the provision of technical and other resources to the Community in its effort to establish and operationalize the Caribbean Public Health Agency as a mechanism for cooperation and coordination across the region on public health policy;

9. *Also expresses appreciation* for the active cooperation existing between the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Caribbean Community, particularly in improving the capacity of the Community in gathering and analysing data and in deepening its analysis of the intraregional and external trade of the Community, as well as in elaborating on the concept of vulnerability in the context of the graduation of some of its member States;

10. *Notes with appreciation* the existing cooperation between the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Caribbean Community, and calls for further deepening of that cooperation in areas such as the

[5] Resolution 66/2, annex.

contribution of information and communications technology to education, the protection of world heritage sites in the Community, the challenge of male academic underachievement and the role of cultural industries to the economies of the States of the region;

11. *Also notes with appreciation* the commitment of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to the permanent memorial initiative, jointly led by the States members of the Caribbean Community and the Group of African States at the United Nations, and in this regard requests increased collaboration with the Permanent Memorial Committee towards the successful conclusion of the international design competition for the permanent memorial;

12. *Further notes with appreciation* the ongoing efforts of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in providing technical assistance and capacity-building to States members of the Caribbean Community in the management of stockpiles of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition and the destruction of obsolete and seized firearms, ammunitions and explosives;

13. *Stresses* the urgent need for the reopening of the office of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the region so as to reinforce the efforts of the States of the region in their struggle against the interrelated scourges of drugs, violent crime and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons;

14. *Expresses appreciation* for the cooperation received from the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat in the implementation of the annual commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade on 25 March and for the continuing support and cooperation being received in the preparatory activities for establishing a permanent memorial to the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade, in keeping with General Assembly resolution 62/122 of 17 December 2007 and subsequent resolutions;

15. *Requests* the Department of Public Information, in cooperation with the countries concerned and relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to continue to take appropriate steps to enhance public awareness worldwide of the commemorative activities and the permanent memorial initiative, and to continue to facilitate efforts to erect the permanent memorial at United Nations Headquarters;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community".